

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

DISCUSSION NOTES ON HOME MANAGEMENT SEMINAR
February 20, 1946

Persons attending: Extension Service -- Director Wilson, Dr. Smith, Mr. Conway, Mr. Schlup, Mr. Galloway, Mr. Boatman, Mr. Gilbertson, Mr. Brigham, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Bevin, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Stout, Miss Pollock, Miss Heywood, Miss Hall, Miss Reese, Miss Hogan, Miss Birdseye, Miss Warren, Miss Collings, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics -- Dr. Stiebeling, Miss Van Deman, Miss O'Brien, Dr. Reid, Miss Lenore Sater.
Agricultural Engineering: -- Mr. Ashby, Mr. Dodge.

After Miss Rokahr reviewed the objectives of the home management program and what was accomplished in 1945, as well as the plans and recommendations for 1946, the discussion was opened by Director Wilson, who asked Mr. Ashby to report on the research work in agricultural engineering. Mr. Ashby called attention to a new circular on "Raise the Roof" and spoke of plans under way for research in cooperation with the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics on house planning. Discussion brought out the fact that housing teaching materials are needed for families having different incomes and for different regions of the United States.

Regional Coordinating Committee. Director Wilson made inquiry regarding the possibility of establishing a coordinating committee on farm structures similar to that in the North Central States. A progress report was given, indicating that such plans were under way in the Northeastern States, but not in the South or West.

Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Dr. Stiebeling, Chief, reported that two divisions of the Bureau, namely, Housing and Household Equipment, and Family Economics, were carrying on research activities in this field. Ruth O'Brien, Assistant Chief, reported further on studies under way that dealt with "Farm Families' Needs and Preferences," and subject matter on planning, including functional lay-outs. Cooperative research on space requirements for different household activities is now under way in Kansas, Maine, and Rhode Island. The long-time program includes several housing publications, those on remodeling and planning the farmhouse and kitchen arrangement being given preference.

Later in this discussion Dr. Margaret Reid, in charge, Family Economics, said that there was need for clarification of programs and activities in financial planning and explained the studies being undertaken by the Family Economics Section in cooperation with the housing and equipment sections of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

Pay for Services. Director Wilson spoke of a recent visit to Iowa and the changing point of view of farm people on what they expect Extension people to bring to them. He thought farm people would be willing to pay for special help in house planning and individual farm and home planning, as well as farm and

home account keeping. He stated, "farm people would like to have an extension worker in the county who would do nothing but help with plans for remodeling their houses. Our sights are too low. If we had people who could render that service, we would have farm people who would pay for it. The problem of getting trained people is bigger than the financial part."

Radio. Director Wilson asked if radio studies had been made in home management work. Miss Rokahr reported that as far as she knew, no home management specialist had conducted a study similar to that conducted by Cornell on "Make a Dress." However, she said she saw no reason why home management and housing subject-matter information could not be adapted to this method.

Studies in Effective Teaching Aids. Ruth Van Deman, in charge, Textiles and Clothing Division, at the close of the discussion on teaching methods said she thought we needed studies on educational results of motion pictures, exhibits, radio, and other teaching materials. She hoped the Extension Service would take the lead in making studies on charts and other informational materials for which we pay large sums of money and which we are not sure are used by farm people.

State Progress. Miss Florence Hall, field agent, Eastern States, reported the keen interest on the part of county extension workers in housing, and Lucile Reynolds pointed out that more background factual literature needed to be prepared by State Extension workers.

Miss Reese, field agent, Western States, said that housing programs were well under way in the Western States, including housing research in Oregon, and workshops and meetings were being held in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Oregon.

Training of Extension Workers and Commercial Cooperation. Discussion on the training of extension workers led to a statement by Miss Rokahr that several States were offering housing courses this summer. Gertrude Warren asked if we had explored the possibility of commercial materials and whether institutes in cooperation with the building industry, bankers, and others could be developed. Other people in attendance said such institutes were being held in several States.

Youth's Stake. Eunice Heywood, field agent, Central States, called attention to the fact that no special provisions had been made for "youth's stake in the rural housing program." Youth have been reported as saying that they were dissatisfied with the comfort and convenience features in rural homes.

Southern States Problems. Mena Hogan, field agent, Southern States, stated that there was need for better house plans for the Southern States, and Miss Birdseye, nutritionist called attention to the excellent work done by Negro families.

Low-Cost Housing. The group agreed that there was need for more research in low-cost housing. Mr. Dixon and Director Wilson called attention to needs of tenants and hired farm help.

Farm and Home Planning. In a discussion on the activities that might be fostered by the Federal staff, Director Wilson, Miss Hogan, and Miss Rokahr stated that farm and home planning lead to housing improvement and this would be an effective way to develop the program.